

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02182 271529Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W
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R 271443Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7099
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2182

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV FR XI AG
SUBJ: FRENCH DIPLOMATS CRITICIZE FRENCH POLICY IN NORTH AFRICA

1. VERY WELL INFORMED LONDON-BASED JOURNALIST HAS SHARED WITH PAO TONE OF SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS HE HAS HAD OVER PAST FEW MONTHS WITH "SENIOR FRENCH DIPLOMATS" RESPONSIBLE FOR OR INTERESTED IN NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

2. ACCORDING TO JOURNALIST, THESE FRENCH DIPLOMATS ARE VERY DISTURBED OVER GISCARD'S POLICY IN NORTH AFRICA AND BELIEVE HIS "TILT" TOWARDS MOROCCO TO BE PREJUDICIAL TO FRANCE'S LONG-TERM INTERESTS IN REGION. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY BITTER OVER FRANCE'S "ABANDONMENT" OF ALGERIAN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SCENE TO U.S. AND HAVE IN SOME CASES EVEN REFUSED ASSIGNMENT TO ALGIERS ON BASIS THAT "NOTHING CAN BE DONE IN ALGIERS, THERE IS NO POINT IN SERVING IN ALGIERS, AS LONG AS FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S POLICY REMAINS WHAT IT IS." LIKE GOA, THESE DIPLOMATS VIEW NEXT YEAR'S FRENCH ELECTIONS AS POSSIBLY BREAKING LOGJAM IN FRANCO-ALGERIAN RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT THEMSELVES "LEFTISTS" IN DOMESTIC FRENCH POLITICS, THEY LOOK TO POT-
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 02182 271529Z

TENTIAL LEFTIST GAINS AS PERHAPS YIELDING NEW APPROACH TO NORTH AFRICA.

3. JOURNALIST'S OWN VIEW IS THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S "TILT" TOWARDS MOROCCO HAS PURELY SENTIMENTAL BASIS IN GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN GISCARD AND HASSAN (WHICH CONTRAST SHARPLY WITH COLDNESS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GISCARD AND BOUMEDIENE) AND THAT "TILT"

HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OVERRIDING POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS. TOLD THAT PRESENT ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO LONDON, LAKHDAR BRAHIMI (ONE OF GOA'S DIPLOMATIC "STARS") MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED TO PARIS, ONE SENIOR FRENCH DIPLOMAT TOLD JOURNALIST, "AS YOU KNOW, GISCARD HAS TO BE SEDUCED, AND MAYBE BRAHIMI IS THE MAN TO DO IT."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 27-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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